

Wei Hai Wei, China, 1895-1949

The postal history of Wei Hai Wei (WHW) and the island of Liu Kung Tau (LKT) for the period 1895-1949 is shown in this exhibit.

In a political sense, WHW was the most important stronghold of Britain in Northern China, second only to Hong Kong for all of China. In a philatelic sense, its postal history included many "China's one-of". For example, the only Courier Post in China, the Chinese Labour Corps of WWI, the only Chinese city that has been invaded and occupied by the Japanese 'twice' in its history. Then the importance of its stellar British PO operations from 1899 to 1930, when the British lease ended. Shown in this exhibit for the first time, the findings and proof of how the Kuomintang (KMT) blocked mail from WHW from reaching outside in 1946 from Sept to late Nov, as it was occupied by the communist after the Japanese capitulation and was never in control by the KMT in Peking. The exhibit starts with forerunners before the first Japanese Occupation in 1896 and ends after the formation of the Peoples Republic of China in October 1949. Grouped by different post offices and its markings, the exhibit is presented in chronological order within the chapters. A chapter has been included under the British PO for the correspondence of the Commissioner of WHW, Sir James Stewart Lockhart, with his daughter, plus other covers that were addressed to him.

The 'new discoveries' in this exhibit show the amount of personal studies by the exhibitor. The main reference cited (below), its copyrights for the next edition, had been transferred to the exhibitor by the two authors in a letter acknowledging this by RPS London in 2004 from Michael Sefi, then Chairman of RPS London Publication Committee. The records, particularly for the Chinese POs at WHW/LKT have been extended by the exhibitor and many new records added by these new discoveries.

H.B.R Clarke's original drawing of Wei Hai Wei Harbour with Liu Kung Tau (island), used in his monogram Wei Hai Wei in Collector's Club Philatelist, New York, 1951, first-ever philatelic study of WHW.

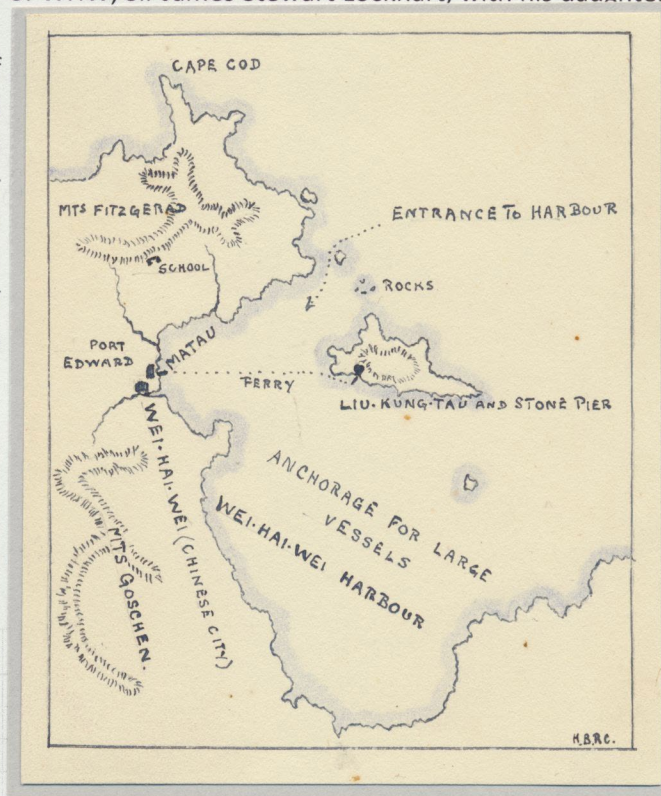


Exhibit Plan		
	1.1-3 Forerunners	pre-1895
	2.1-3 Japanese Invasion	1895
	3.1-9 First Japanese Occupation	1896-98
	4.1-2 Forerunners British Post	1898
	5.1-2 Courier Post	1898-99
British Post	6 LKT oval	1899-1901
	7.1-5 Boxer Rebellion and FPO	1900-01
	8.1-5 LKT small CDS	1902-24
	9.1-2 transition between 2 markings	1906-07
	10.1-4 LKT large CDS	1907-20
	11.1-2 LKT medium CDS	1920-30
	12.1-6 R in circle and LKT boxed registration	1902-30
	13.1-4 WHW-Port Edward 3 partition boxed	1904-08
	14.1-6 WHW-Port Edward large CDS	1907-20
	15.1-5 WHW-Port Edward medium CDS	1918-30
	16.1-3 Port Edward boxed registration	1918-30
	17.1-4 Royal Navy (pre-war)	1908-14
	18.1-2 Postage Due	1902-25
	19.1-10 Stewart-Lockhart correspondence	1902-30

Ref: Crown Colony of Wei Hai Wei, Goldsmith/Goodwyn, RPS, 1985.

Chinese Imperial Post	20.1-2 WHW small oval	1899
	21.1-2 WHW large oval	1900
	22 IPO Tieprints	1899
	23 WHW rectangular	1901
	24.1-9 WHW double ring CDS	1900-02
	25.1-4 WHW-LKT double ring CDS	1902-04
	26 WHW Lunar CDS	1904-11
Chinese Republic Post	27 Pre-WWI	1912-16
	28.1-10 Chinese Labour Corp	1917-19
	29.1-4 Post-WWI	1919-30
	30.1-8 Post-British Occupation	1931-38
	31.1-2 Postage Due	1928-35
	32.1-5 Japanese Occupation	1938-45
33.1-4 Other offices		1906-34
34.1-9 Liberated Area Post		1945-49
35 Epilog		post 1949